Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): A nucleic acid-lipid particle for introducing a nucleic acid into a cell, said particle comprising a cationic lipid, a conjugated lipid that inhibits aggregation of particles, and a nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid is encapsulated in the lipid of ~~in~~ said particle and is resistant in aqueous solution to degradation with a nuclease.

Claim 43 (canceled)

Claim 44 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said particle is substantially non-toxic.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said particle has a median diameter of less than about 150 nm.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said cationic lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of N,N-dioleyl-N,N-dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), N,N-distearyl-N,N-dimethylammonium bromide (DDAB), N-(1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTAP), N-(1-(2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTMA), and N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture of two or more of the above.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said particle further comprises an additional non-cationic lipid.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 47, wherein said non-cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of DOPE, POPC, and EPC.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said conjugated lipid is a PEG-lipid.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49, wherein said PEG-lipid comprises from 1% to about 15% of the lipid present in said particle.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49, wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-ceramide.

Claim 52 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51, wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 8 carbon atoms.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51, wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 14 carbon atoms.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51, wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 20 carbon atoms.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49, wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-phosphatidylethanolamine.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 5 mg nucleic acid per mmol lipid.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 20 mg nucleic acid per mmol lipid.

Claim 58 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 40 mg nucleic acid per mmol lipid.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is a plasmid.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is an antisense oligonucleotide.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said nucleic acid is a ribozyme.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said cationic lipid comprises 50% or less of the lipid present in said particle.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein said cationic lipid comprises from an amount greater than 0% to about 20% of the lipid present in said particle.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid component of said particle is substantially not degraded after exposure of said particle to a nuclease at 37°C for 20 minutes.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein the nucleic acid component of said particle is substantially not degraded after incubation of said particle in serum at 37°C for 30 minutes.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein more than 10% of a plurality of such particles are present in plasma one hour after intravenous administration.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42, wherein transformation of cells by said particle at a site distal to the site of administration is detectable for at least four days after intravenous injection.

Claim 69 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid-lipid particle and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said nucleic acid-lipid particle comprising a cationic lipid, a conjugated lipid that inhibits aggregation of particles, and a nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid is encapsulated in the lipid of ~~in~~ said particle and is resistant in aqueous solution to degradation with a nuclease.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dioleyl-N,N-dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), N,N-distearyl-N,N-dimethylammonium bromide (DDAB), N-(1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTAP), N-(1-(2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTMA), and N,N-dimethyl-2,3-dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture of two or more of the above.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said particle further comprises an additional non-cationic lipid.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 71, wherein said additional non-cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of DOPE, POPC, and EPC.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said conjugated lipid is a PEG-lipid.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 73, wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-ceramide.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, an antisense oligonucleotide, and a ribozyme.